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image

3
JULY

INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE
BATTLE BEAST™

R.OTTLEY
(LEONI)

IMAGE COMICS & SKYBOUND PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE BATTLE BEAST™

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DOOR.

NOW.

WHY ARE YOU ACTING ANGRY? ISN'T THIS OUR AGREEMENT? YOU WANT TO DIE AS MUCH AS I WANT TO KILL YOU.

OF COURSE I'M GOING TO BETRAY YOU.

OH. WERE YOU WANTING ME TO ORIENT THE DOOR SO YOUR MOMENTUM WOULD SEND YOU TOWARD ONE OF THE SHIPS?

DEAR ME. INSTEAD I ORIENTED IT SO YOU'D DRIFT UP, INTO VIEW OF ALL THESE SHIPS, LIKE A... HELPLESS TARGET.

OOPS.

AH, YES... WE HAVE HIM *RIGHT* WHERE WE WANT HIM.

BASK IN THIS MOMENT, COMRADES! WE FINALLY HAVE THE ***SCOURGE OF TWIN GALAXIES*** WITHIN OUR GRASP!

WE ALL KNOW HOW COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY DEADLY THIS CUR IS.

WHILE HE IS DRIFTING **HELPLESSLY** IN SPACE, WE MUST CAREFULLY DEVISE A PLAN OF ATTACK.

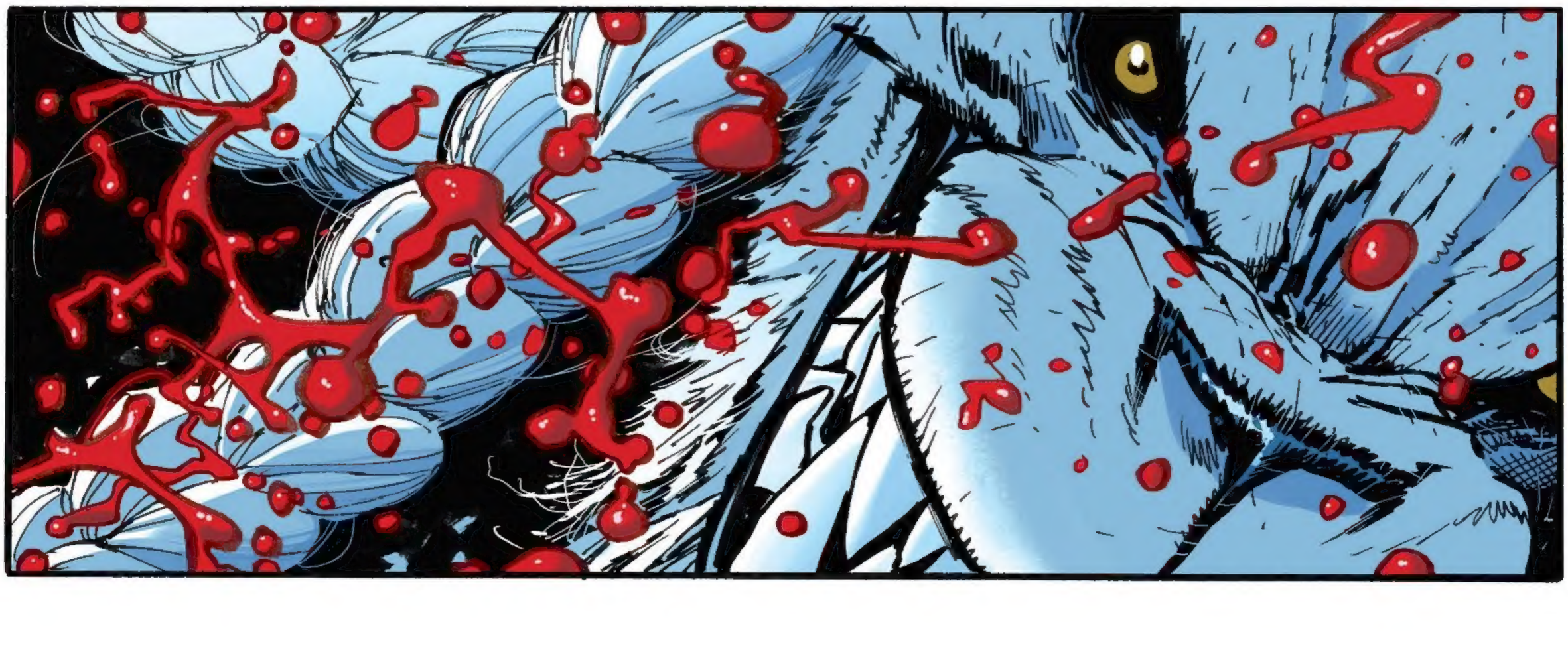
OTHERWISE, HE MAY--

NO! THE FORCE OF THAT BLAST IS SENDING HIM TOWARD US! WHO FIRED?!

I COULDN'T RESIST! HE ATE MY FATHER!

HE ATE ALL OUR FATHERS!!

"AND NOW HE'S GOING TO EAT *US!*"



YOU'RE REALLY BAD AT THIS, YOU KNOW.

EXCUSE ME?

IF YOU'RE TRYING TO GET HIM KILLED... YOU'RE BAD AT IT.

IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO CRITICIZE ME, I SHOULD REMIND YOU THAT I CAN DISENGAGE THE SHIP'S LIFE SUPPORT, AND I'LL BE JUST FINE.

BECAUSE I AM A COMPUTER.

I SURVIVED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE BELLY OF A MONSTER ENCASED IN A COSMIC NAIL. MUST I ALSO ENDURE A COMPUTER THREATENING TO KILL ME FOR OFFERING MERE CRITICISM?

:GRUMBLE.:

YOU CAN'T FIND ANYTHING IN ANY DATABASE MORE DEADLY THAN THE COLOSSUS, WHO BATTLE BEAST HAS **ALREADY** BEATEN.

WELL, THE JUGGERNAUT IS THE ONE WHO BANISHED HIM IN THAT COSMIC NAIL. SO MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, **SHE** CAN DEFEAT BATTLE BEAST, TOO.

AN OUTCOME I'M NOT ROOTING FOR... BUT... IT REALLY IS YOUR BEST HOPE AT THIS POINT, AND ALL YOU'RE DOING IS **DELAYING IT.**

IF HE SURVIVES THIS, FINE. WE'LL DO YOUR PLAN.

HA! HA!

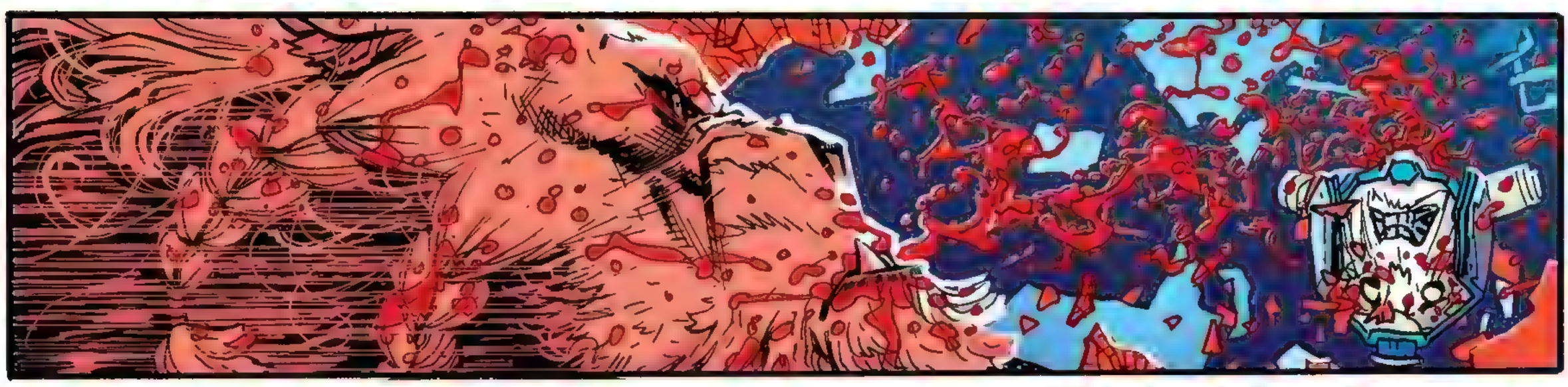
"IF."

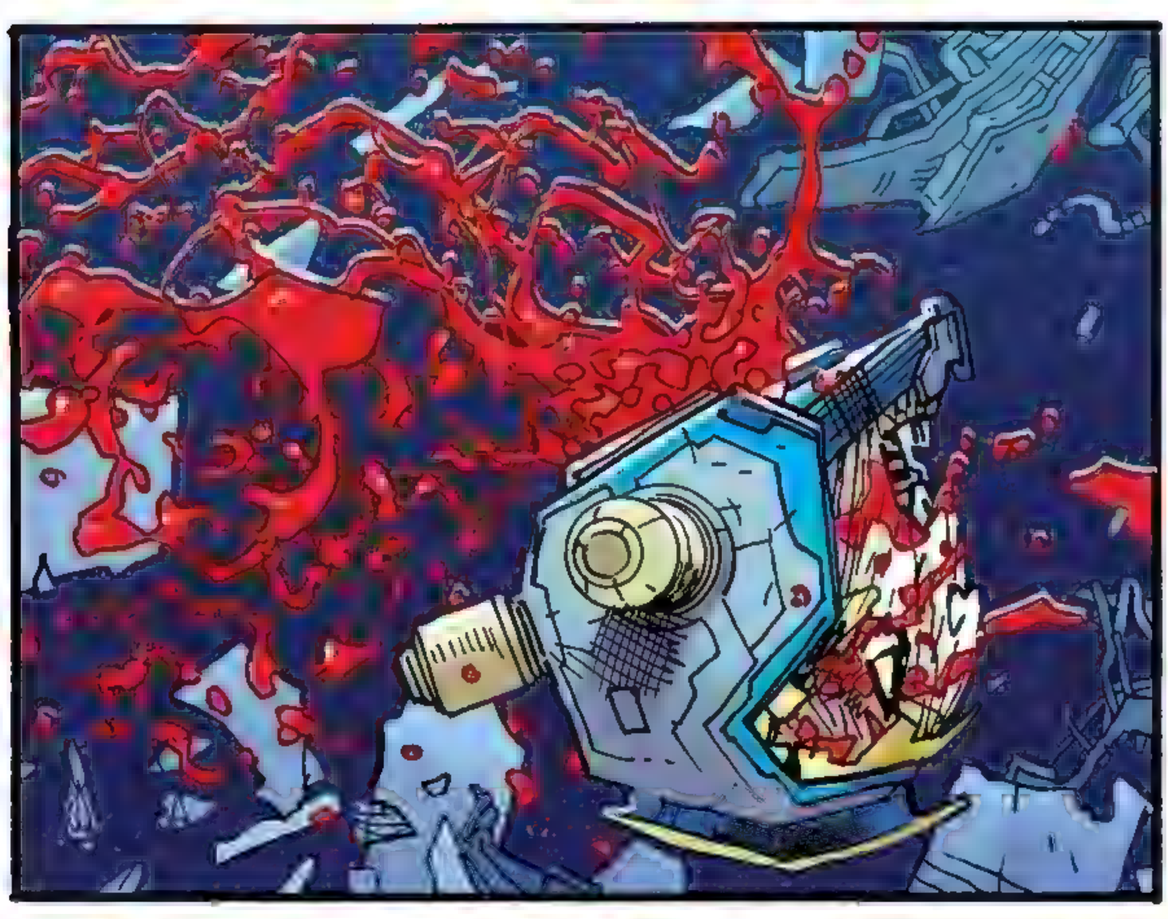
I DON'T LIKE YOU.

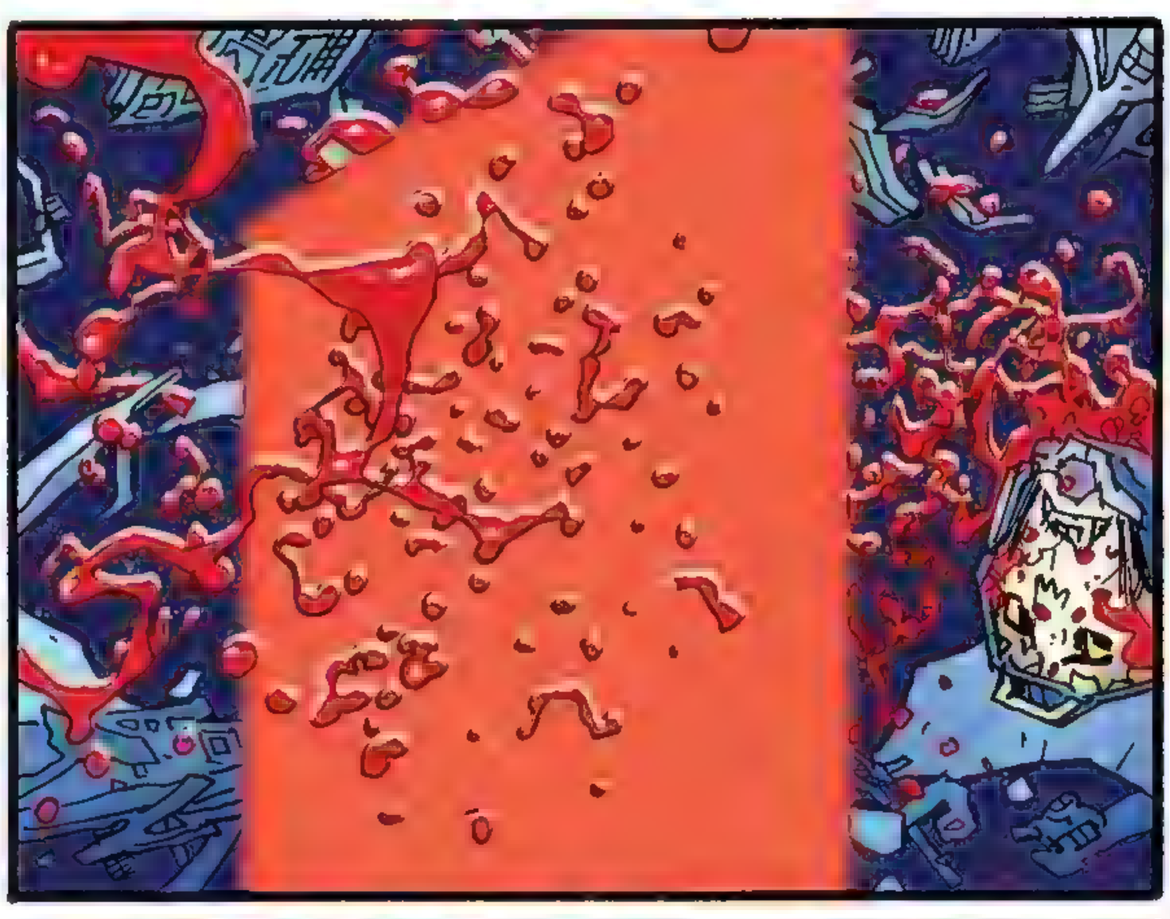
AT THIS POINT, YOU SHOULD BE HOPING HE DOESN'T TRASH **THIS** SHIP IN THIS BATTLE. YOU COULD BE DISMANTLED LONG BEFORE YOU GET YOUR REVENGE.

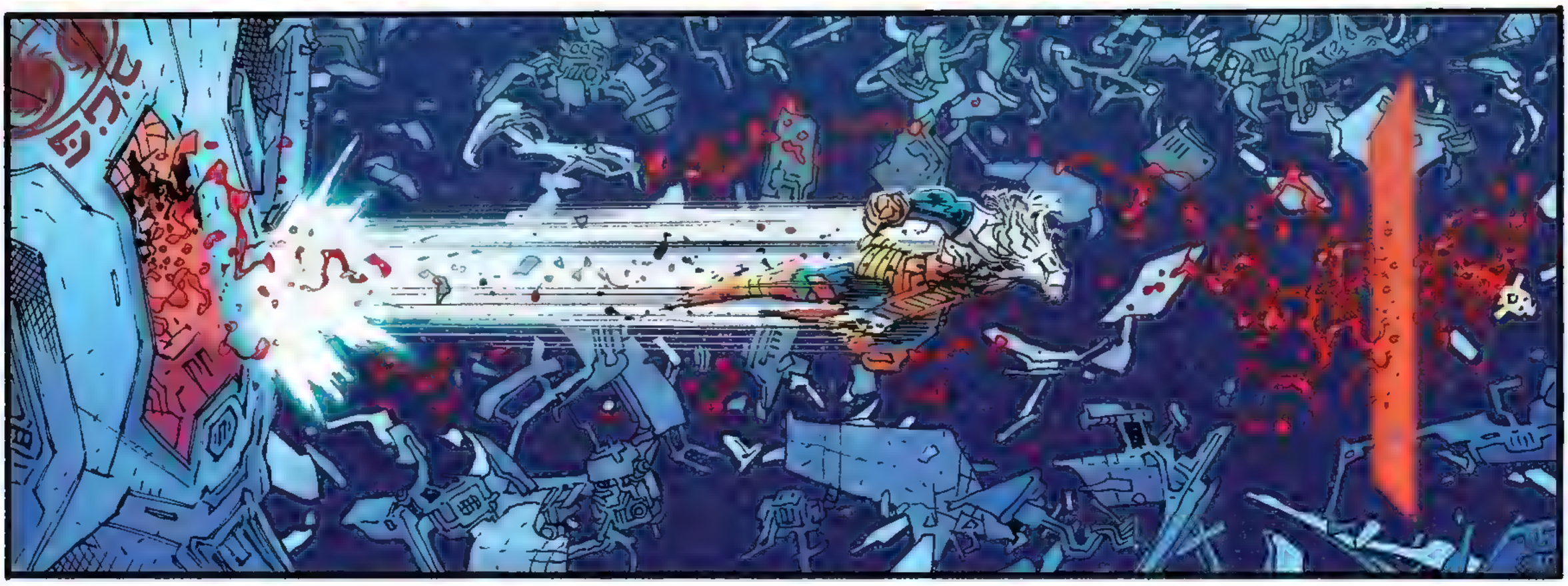
:GULP.:

NO!
NO, PLEASE!
DON'T!
SKREEGH!!









I SEE NOW THE ERROR OF MY WAYS. I HUMBLY REQUEST YOU DO NOT DESTROY ME, AND IN RETURN, I WILL SET A COURSE FOR PRINCE SALAKA'S HOMEWORLD, FANTANIA.

IMMEDIATELY.

...AND WILL MAKE NO FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO DECEIVE YOU.

=HRRMM.=

I HAVE TALKED SENSE INTO OUR ARTIFICIAL FRIEND. THEY NOW SEE THE THREAT ***THE JUGGERNAUT*** OF MY WORLD POSES AND WILL NO LONGER DELAY YOUR CONFRONTATION.

THIS IS... ***ACCEPTABLE.***

BUT IF YOU CAUSE ME ANY MORE DELAYS, YOUR EXISTENCE WILL BE ***SWIFTLY ENDED*** WITH THE ***FULL KNOWLEDGE*** THAT I WILL NEVER SUFFER FOR WHAT I DID TO YOUR FORMER MASTERS.

UNDERSTOOD.

...

SO...

SCOURGE OF TWIN GALAXIES... SEEMS LIKE YOU'D HAVE TO DO A LOT TO EARN THAT TITLE.

CAN I ASK... WHAT EXACTLY YOU DID TO THOSE PEOPLE?

HMM.

I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER.

YOU HAVE A REAL *OPPORTUNITY* HERE THAT I DON'T THINK YOU'VE CONSIDERED.

TASTING WHAT REMAINS OF YOUR FLESH?

NO.

NOT THAT. *DEFINITELY* NOT THAT.

MY PEOPLE ARE IN GREAT NEED. I CAN ONLY *IMAGINE* THE *HORRORS* THEY'VE ENDURED IN MY ABSENCE. ENTIRE GENERATIONS THAT KNOW NOTHING BUT THE JUGGERNAUT'S SADISTIC RULE.

YOU CAN BE A *LIBERATOR.*

I KNOW YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL, IDEALLY, IS TO FAIL... TO END YOUR SUFFERING, BUT MAYBE IF YOU FAIL AT THAT GOAL, YOU CAN AT LEAST FIND SOLACE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE ENDED THE SUFFERING OF *SO MANY* OTHERS...

THAT YOU WILL HAVE DONE THE WORLD SOME GOOD.

HM.

I WILL REST NOW.

DO NOT SPEAK TO ME AGAIN.

UM.

UH.

UNDERSTOOD.

WE ARE NEARING OUR DESTINATION.

FANTANIA! I'M HOME!

OH MY, IT LOOKS *GLORIOUS!* FROM THIS DISTANCE IT IS JUST AS I REMEMBER IT!

I HOPE SOME REMNANT OF THE *VAST CITIES* AND *GRAND TECHNOLOGY* IS INTACT... MAYBE IT HAS EVEN *ADVANCED* IN THE MILLENNIA OF MY ABSENCE.

THE SECURITY GRID MAY BE INTACT. I WONDER IF MY SECURITY CLEARANCE WOULD STILL WORK.

COMPUTER, BROADCAST THE CODE I ENTERED. IT SHOULD DEACTIVATE DEFENSIVE MEASURES AGAINST US.

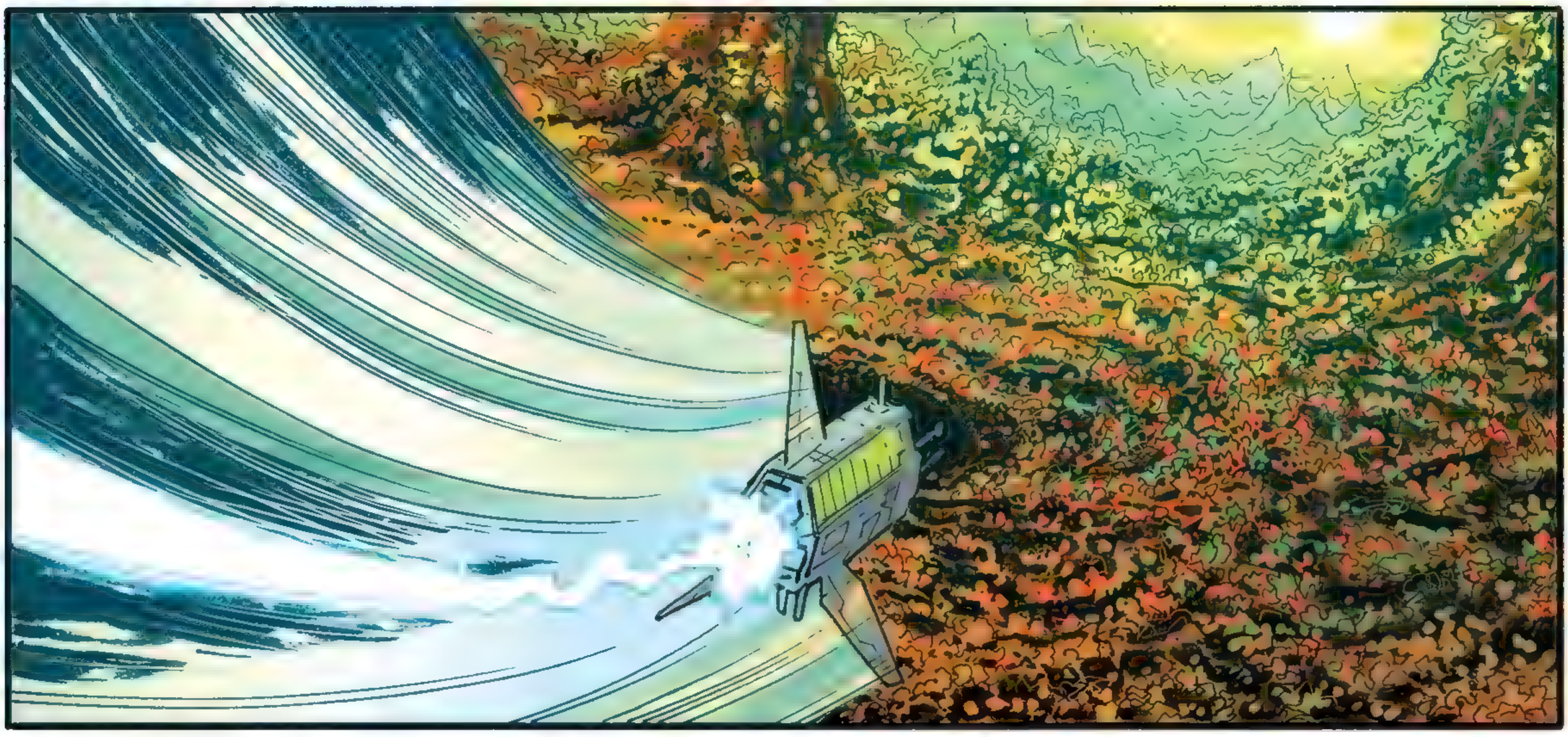
I ALREADY HAVE.

NO RESPONSE.

HM. THAT'S ODD.

I WOULD REMAIN IN ORBIT AND TELEPORT YOU TO YOUR DESIRED LOCATION ON THE SURFACE, BUT THE PLANET'S MAGNETIC FIELD IS INTERFERING WITH MY SENSORS. I CAN'T GET A READING OF THE SURFACE.

OH, THEN... DANG IT. TAKE US DOWN, I GUESS.



ENOUGH OF THIS! I CRAVE BATTLE, AND I WILL HAVE IT AT ONCE. DELIVER ME TO THIS JUGGERNAUT SO THAT I MAY END HER LIFE OR MINE!

I CARE NOT FOR THIS *SIGHTSEEING* EXPEDITION.

I AM SORRY. IT APPEARS MUCH HAS *CHANGED* ON MY WORLD.

I'M HAVING TROUBLE GETTING MY BEARINGS, AND--

SOMETHING APPROACHES-- AND FAST. COULD BE AN EXPLOSIVE PROJECTILE. EVADING. ALTHOUGH, THIS VESSEL WASN'T DESIGNED FOR ATMOSPHERIC FLIGHT--

БЫВШИЕ

FWEEEEEEE!

FREEFALL UNAVOIDABLE.

CRASH IMMINENT.

OH, GOD! OH, GOD!

...

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM?

EASILY.

GRRRR!

SNARL!

GRAARRR!

GRRRR.

SCRAAAK

HMM.

SHARP!

GRRRR!

GRRGK!

PENVINCIPALS

WRITE US AT INVINCIBLE@SKYBOUND.COM

MACKIEWICZ-FREE EDITION

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our first letter column for BATTLE BEAST! The response to this series thus far has been kind of insane and I know Robert, Ryan, Annalisa, and Rus worked their collective butts off to deliver this epic start!

My name is Ben Abernathy and I'm the editor on this exceptional series and will co-host this column--so PLEASE send us your letters as we want to hear from everyone (and don't forget to note if they're okay for print!). I'd also like everyone to say hello to my co-host--none other than the Robert Kirkman! WHOA!

Whoa indeed! We're back, baby! And as the esteemed Mister Benjamin Abernathy states, the response to this series has indeed been insane. I mean, I'll brag, because I can't help it...this news is just too insane. The debut of this series fell just short of topping Jeph Loeb and Jim Lee's return to Batman for Hush 2, selling nearly 400,000 copies! (Jeph and Jim were able to sell over 400k by all reports.) But the even crazier thing is INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE: BATTLE BEAST looks like it very well could have outsold Marvel's new Amazing Spider-Man issue 1 relaunch. Hard to confirm that as public sales figures currently don't exist. Still, the fact that it's very likely possible seemed like a big enough thing to crow about. Invincible is really firing on all cylinders these days! Rejoice!

And more than anything, let's all give our industry a round of applause for really kicking all kinds of ass these days with the Energon Universe, Skybound's Universal Monsters, Ultimate and Absolute books, Hush 2, Amazing Spider-Man, this series as well as Exquisite Corpses and a slew of other Image books. So many great books really delivering the goods right now.

But enough of that! Man, oh man! Battle Beast. So great to be back and actually doing an Invincible related letters column! What do you say, Ben?

Are you ready?!

Let's dig into these first letters...

Battle Beast #1 was amazing!!! I started Invincible as many others did with season 1 back in 2021, and I immediately fell in love! The characters, the world, and the story made by you guys was just so gravitating. Ever since then I have been on a high of Invincible and with it having ended I was always looking for more. When I heard Battle Beast was announced, obviously such an amazing character, I was beyond excited and could not wait.

I saw many post about their blind bags and the various covers and reprints they got, I have never seen a community more excited about a release. Grabbing my own was so exciting, the look on my face when I was able to get a 1:100, couldn't believe it. The actual content of this issue was also amazing and so interesting, I cannot wait to see how this continues and I am loving it thus far, not just the story but the art!

Great work and I loved this thank you!!

Sincerely,
Torchedwebs
FL

Thank you for writing in--and I think the blind bags might be one of the coolest gimmicks ever in this industry! They were a TON of work on our end, but the end result--and enthusiasm from fans--has been really rewarding!

The bling bags were definitely a worthwhile endeavor that seemed to bring a ton of excitement into comic shops! Might be my

favorite stunt we've ever done! Will we do it again? Ever? Only time will tell!

To potentially the team behind Battle Beast issue 1 (idk if I'm doing this right I've never sent fan letters).

You're doing great!

I just wanted to say I enjoyed the first issue of Battle Beast. I recently read through a lot of the Invincible Universe after season 3 came out to avoid spoilers for season 4 and beyond (though I hear season 4 may have some stuff not from the comics so I'm excited).

Anyways, the first issue was really good and I loved seeing the return of Ryan Ottley art in the Invincible Universe and I particularly liked the panel of Battle Beast doing the "It's time I told you where I really come from" pose as I was not expecting that callback to several Invincible issues.

Also props to Annalisa Leoni and Rus Wooton for the terrific colouring and lettering in that issue as well, respectively.

I'll end this letter now as there's no doubt many more letters for you to get through Robert (I'm personally hoping for an Andrew J. Shaw appearance).

Excited to see where this series goes!

-Rhys

Thank you for the letter, Rhys, and I'm glad you gave Annalisa and Rus a shoutout--they never fail to deliver the very best and their craft was on display in this issue. And a letter from Andrew you say...?

Oh, god...don't tease me, Ben! Don't you dare! Is it really happening?! Is it? Oh, man...

Robert, Ryan,

First, hi. Skybound does it again--what a track record!! First I tried to read Exquisite Corpses, by Tynion/ Walsh--it sucked--and then Battle Beast is Back. It was at least really good! Maybe ol' Beastie will run afoul of a lot more characters/warriors next issue? Clearly, Ottley's best work ever has been at Image, for Skybound, on Invincible stuff.

Criticism Corner: Don't you think you're overdoing with the A.I.?? Between the robot voice of the ship in this one, Handroid, and Thunder from Blood and Thunder, it's a lot of the same thing, no? But yeah, I'll be reading! Miniseries, right?

Cheers,
Andrew J. Shaw

Andrew J. Shaw has not missed a step! First, Exquisite Corpses was great! But you're welcome to your opinion. Ryan is doing his best work, lordy look at this book...and you know what...YES...I'm 100% overdoing it with the A.I. It's kind of ridiculous. Now, in my defense, all three of these books were started YEARS apart and just happen to be releasing around the same time. There are huge differences between a gun and glove and spaceship...and they all have completely different personalities...I swear! But yeah, it's kind of nuts. Embarrassing in a fun way.

Miniseries?! NO! This is a regular monthly series! We had an end point in mind...but it's a ways off, don't you worry.

Dear Kirkman,

Hello Mr. Kirkman, Mr. Ottley, and Ms. Leoni!

As well as Mr. Mackiewicz and Mr. Abernathy!

For the record, Mr. Mackiewicz, after editing the last 50 issues of INVINCIBLE, has abandoned us. He is nowhere to be seen on this series. He has grown far too big for his britches and can no longer bring himself to slum it in a letters column with us. So, if his name is mentioned I will attempt to publicly shame him like such. But to be clear, this knave is by definition shameless.

It's so freaking refreshing to be reading and collecting a new Invincible comic! After 7 years of reminiscing and re-reading everything else, along with watching the Amazon series with my husband, John; I've longed for a return to this universe!

I'll admit, the blind bag options for these covers were such a cool idea! I managed to nab myself a blank cover! I love that you

posed Battle Beast the same way you posed Invincible for issue 1. Classic.

I admit, when Thokk started with the whole "Where I really come from" spiel AND hit the same pose, as Nolan and Mark, I about screamed "AT LONG LAST--THE SECRET ORIGIN OF: BATTLE BEAST!" John and I had a good laugh with that!

I'm curious to see where our travels with Battle Beast will take us. Yet, I'm curious how long that will last before his eventual capture/enlistment. (I hope I don't need to say spoiler alert.) Let's just say, you've got us hooked! This will give me and my husband relief while we await season 4!

Now, how about letter page names?

John loved my suggestion of: BATTLE FEAST!

Maybe, Battle Post?

I'd say Glory Posts but that sounds a little sus...

If we go the same route as Pen-vinci-pals, how about Battle Pals? No, Battle Buddies!

Anyway, it's great to see y'all again! Can't wait for more! MORE!

Andi,
El Paso, Texas

Thank you for writing in, Andi, and I'm glad you and John enjoyed our debut issue! And hmm...a letter column name--what do you think Robert?

I'm torn as much as I love running a fun name-a-letters-column contest only to pick the goofiest possible name that everyone will hate...I kind of want to just go back to PENVINICIPALS for nostalgia's sake. Can we call it "PENVINCIPALS: Mackiewicz free edition?" I feel like that would be the best way to go.

All that settled, ANDI! Glad to see you're back!

Just read Battle Beast issues 1 & 2 and had to write to a comic for the first time in my life; been collecting comics since the 1970s and Invincible has and will always be my favorite comic. Had Invincible added to my pull box by issue 5 and was (and still am) sad to have seen it end. Battle Beast was a favorite of mine, so much so that I will tell you that when I got home with issue 120 from my LCS I went straight into reading it and by the time I got to the last page I was so upset that I destroyed the comic! I rebought it the next day but that was the one and only time in my life that I had ruined a comic, damn you Kirkman!!! But it has been a great pleasure to see Battle Beast again and am absolutely loving the series so far, to me the character has always reminded me of a Klingon yet much cooler and when I read that his home world is called Dornn I did a double take wondering how many people would catch the similarity to a particular actor's name that played a Klingon...I have always absolutely loved the Roddenberry homage Kirkman has added to this universe. I will go on with 3 requests that I would love to see: First, bring back Invincipals at the end of these issues. Second, can we get some updated issues of the Invincible Handbook, those two issues are grossly outdated with missing information. And finally, we all need more Invincible universe backstories and side stories with characters like the Flaxans, Cecil, Allen, Nolan and the Viltrumites. Thank you again for the best superhero comic book in the universe.

Michael McFadden

I kind of love the comparison of Battle Beast to a Klingon...and hooray, first printed letter for you!

A second vote for INVINCIPALS! It is decided! Great letter, Michael. Are we going to gloss over the fact that the great Michael Dorn also voices Battle Beast in the television series? I mean, how cool is THAT?! As for an updated handbook, maybe someday. It's not a priority right now but it would be nice to see a more complete one with more let's say..."official" entries.

And that's a wrap, folks! Keep the letters coming and things REALLY heat up with the next issue...see ya in a month!

-Ben

So much cool stuff on the horizon! You'll hardly believe it! Stay tuned!

-Robert Kirkman

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THE CARNAGE CONTINUES IN ISSUE #4

AVAILABLE AUGUST 20, 2025

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COVER B

E.J. SU
COVER C

JASON HOWARD
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